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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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NEW PASTOR

Parishioners still unhappy with change

St. John Council sent unanimous letter to bishop; departing priest's energy, outreach will be missed

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Agawam are still unhappy with they will be losing the Rev. Tomasz Parzynski at the end of this month.

Parzynski was informed in late November 2014 that he would be transferred to another parish at the request of new Bishop Mitchell Rozanski. In the past month, members of the church learned they would be receiving veteran priest the Rev. Brian McGrath as

his replacement.

They haven't heard much else from the bishop, however. Parish Council member Wendell Haire said this week that he would like to know why his parish is losing an effective priest.

"We are definitely not for him

going away," Haire said. "My wife and I thought him to be holy and he made positive changes, and brought more people into the church."

Edward Grimaldi, another member of the council, said Parzynski was "a good priest and we

enjoyed having him here, but there was another calling for him."

Haire said the council met last month and unanimously agreed to send a letter to the bishop expressing disappointment that Parzynski was transferred, and

PARISH | page 8

COLLEEN CORONATION

'I made great friends. I can't wait for all the fun.'

*Lauren Muszynski named
15th Agawam Colleen*

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Lauren Muszynski was recruited into being considered to be the next Agawam Colleen.

She decided to go for the honor to remember her grandmother's Irish roots.

Last Sunday morning, Muszynski and eight other hopefuls braved the snowy weather for the 15th anniversary coronation ceremony.

At the end of the morning, it was Muszynski who was named the 2015 Colleen by a panel of judges appointed by the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, which will enter a float ridden by Muszynski and her court on Sunday, March 15.

RELATED STORY

Past Colleens reflect on the honor
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Nicole Bertera, a member of the St. Patrick's Committee, works with Muszynski at a bank. She asked Muszynski to bring applications to Holyoke Catholic High School, which she attends.

"I took one," Muszynski said. "I then realized that running for Colleen was going to be much more than a competition to me. It was a way for me to become closer to my grandmother's memory."

During a question-and-answer portion of the coronation event Sunday, Muszynski says her Irish heritage means strength to her. She says her grandmother fought valiantly

COLLEEN | page 10



Kelly Theriault, the 2014 Colleen, crowns this year's Colleen, Lauren Muszynski, during the Feb. 8 coronation. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

CITY COUNCIL

Check on mayor moves forward

*Sponsor' wanted to
withdraw plan for
Council confirmation*

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The City Council is still considering a proposal to require that the mayor consult with them when hiring department heads, even after the councilor who proposed the resolution tried to withdraw it.

Last Thursday, as the council met to authorize snow removal deficit spending, Councilor Anthony Suffriti asked to remove his proposal that would ask voters to petition the state for a charter change, subjecting department head hires to confirmation by the council.

Suffriti had placed the resolution on the agenda for Feb. 2, before a snowstorm canceled that meeting. He said he changed his mind about the proposal after a Feb. 4 meeting with Mayor Richard Cohen.

Council President Christopher Johnson, however, refused to consider a withdrawal last week, stating that it would have to wait until the next regular meeting. The council's next meeting is Feb. 17. Johnson's ruling sparked a heated discussion among councilors.

Councilor Gina Letellier said she wanted to know what happened at the Feb. 4 meeting with the mayor and why Suffriti asked to withdraw the resolution.

Johnson further stated withdrawals could not happen until the item appeared at the next meeting as old business. He also stated withdrawals should be made in writing. Johnson then referred the item to the Legislative Subcommittee, headed by Councilor James Cichetti. Johnson suggested Suffriti share what happened at his meeting with the mayor at the subcommittee meeting.

Johnson's decisions were supported by Council Vice President Dennis Perry, but they were opposed by Councilors Joseph

HIRING | page 8

APPLAUSE SERIES

What to wear in Austen

Historical fashion show brings characters' clothes to life

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Fashion shows aren't unusual — that is, unless it's one that delves into stylish men's and women's attire from 200 years ago.

Dressed in period-correct attire of the Regency era in England during the early 1800s, performance artist Kandie Carle presented a one-woman show, "Fashion in Fiction: Clothing Speaks Volumes in Jane Austen's Novels," to an audience of 60 people last week at the

Agawam Public Library. For an hour and a half, Carle discussed the clothing, accessories, manners, and etiquette of the time period reflected in Austen's novels.

Carle regaled the audience with highlights on how Austen used clothing and fashion to enhance and define characters, delineate class and develop plot points in her fiction. The show centered on Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy, two popular characters from Austen's 1814 novel, "Pride and Prejudice."

AUSTEN | page 11



Kandie Carle used illustrations, humor and anecdotes about fashion, home life, and etiquette of men and women featured in Jane Austen novels for a presentation Feb. 6 at the Agawam Public Library. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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20 PAGES

Trying again Monday for 'Idol' tryouts

After three postponements due to winter storms, the first-ever Agawam Idol singing contest is set to kick off Monday, Feb. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

All are invited to try out for the contest, at no cost, on Monday. Those who are chosen to compete in the main event will pay a \$35 entry fee. The grand prize for the winner will be six hours of professional recording time and \$250 cash. Second prize is \$150.

To sign up, call 413-786-0924.

School board joins anti-mandate coalition

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

With school budgets being squeezed by unfunded mandates and parents becoming more vocal about initiatives such as the Common Core standards, the Agawam School Committee last month approved a position statement from a new coalition of school leaders.

The Western Massachusetts Educational Leaders Coalition was formed last summer when educational leaders representing 10 local school districts met to "discuss their common responses to and concerns with recent federal and state initiatives that are shaping public education in Massachusetts."

WMELC's purpose is to give education leaders and school committees in Western Massachusetts a larger voice in expressing concerns about issues they have said create obstacles and challenges to local school districts, such as state and federal mandates and excessive testing.

Agawam Superintendent William Sappelli, along with committee members Shelley Reed and Wendy Reed, are members of WMELC. The coalition currently comprises nine superintendents and a dozen school committee members who represent 10 Western Massachusetts school districts.

According to information provided to the Agawam School Committee for its Jan. 13 endorsement vote, WMELC offers member districts the opportunity to share their concerns with the implementation of new curriculum standards, new forms of standardized testing, and a wide-range of federal and state mandates.

Prior to the vote, committee member Anthony Bonavita said he's "very happy" that the position statement covers many of the issues the committee has discussed. "It's very well done," he said.

Reed added that the formation of WMELC and its position statement shows that school committees like Agawam are "pushing back" against unfunded mandates and excessive testing. "It's our first little step in pushing back. We're part of a coalition now. Hopefully, this will spread throughout the state," she said.

WMELC finalized its position statement at a December meeting. Superintendents who are members have been bringing the

statement to their school committees for endorsement. In addition, WMELC is encouraging superintendents to seek the endorsement of their local teacher unions. Once the position statement is approved by superintendents and school committees, WMELC intends to issue it formally to state policy makers, the governor, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

In its position statement, WMELC said its members are "collectively concerned" with the impact of three major issues:

- The amount, pace and cost of unfunded mandates, including requirements to implement Common Core State Standards, a new framework for educator evaluation, a new set of assessments called District Determined Measures and a new high-stakes standardized test created by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

- The validity, reliability and implementation of the proposed PARCC exam that WMELC said "represents a costly departure" from MCAS. The statement also said PARCC is being implemented "without adequate funding and technology, without enough involvement from Massachusetts educators, and ahead of districts' capacity to implement new curriculum standards." WMELC added that it's not convinced that the new exam's questions are "appropriately constructed and properly aligned" with new standards.

- The amount, frequency and cost of standardized testing. WMELC's position is that current state Department of Education reform efforts "places too much emphasis on standardized testing," that time and resources devoted to standardized testing are "excessive," and that "valuable teaching and learning time" is "lost" to standardized testing requirements.

This past April, Agawam's School Committee approved a strongly worded resolution that called unfunded and underfunded mandates a "burdensome" cost to school districts, force taxpayers to absorb the mandates' costs, and create a narrow curriculum for students. The resolution — sent to local legislators and state and federal policymakers — said these mandates are costly and compromise the mission of Agawam's schools.

Correction

The names and photographs of two Agawam residents were mismatched in the Jan. 29 Agawam Advertiser News ("Agawam Residents Named Officers of Gray House Board," Page 2). They are attributed correctly at right. Chase was recently named vice president of the Gray House board of directors; Mitus was named treasurer.



Paul Mitus



David Chase



Yali Gonzalez

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Agawam parents unite to fight Common Core standards

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Michele Labonte-Veras is one of many Agawam parents unhappy about the Common Core State Standards. Unlike other parents, she turned her concern into action.

Last November, Labonte-Veras formed Agawam Parents for Children First. It has united parents troubled by the Common Core and its associated tests and assessments. She said the goal is to eliminate the Common Core standards in Agawam schools.

"Parents are very supportive and happy someone is taking on the 'fight' for our kids," said Labonte-Veras, the parent of a nine-year-old third-grader and a six-year-old first-grader. She added that she's heard from "an astounding number" of parents upset with how the new standards are affecting their children's education.

She said more parents oppose the Common Core than favor it.

"I spoke to one mom who introduced me to her child as 'the lady who is going to save your education,'" said Labonte-Veras. "It made me cry. We have parents involved in all Agawam schools — I'm just the 'face' and name of this fight in Agawam."

Massachusetts is one of 46 states that adopted the state standards as a requirement for getting federal Race to the Top funds. While the Common Core was better than education standards in many states, Massachusetts' standards were considered "superior" — and were well-tested.

Massachusetts adopted the Common Core standards in July 2010. They became part of the state curriculum the following year. The state is now in the process of developing a common test — Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC — based on the new standards.

Unfunded mandates a 'major problem'

According to Labonte-Veras, the funds "have come and gone," leaving no more federal dollars to support mandates.

"Local school districts now are com-



Michele Labonte-Veras uses her computer to keep track of the latest developments in efforts to repeal the Common Core State Standards in Massachusetts and other states. She recently formed Agawam Parents for Children First, which also advocates for eliminating those standards. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

pletely footing the bill — and this is a major problem," she said. "Who's going to pay for all the mandates and technology demands of Common Core and PARCC?"

Labonte-Veras said she barely knew anything about Common Core until her daughter began coming home from first grade in tears. After researching the standards and talking with other parents of students at the Granger School — upset about how their kids are being taught using the new curriculum — she organized APCF.

She said her group advocates for children and isn't working against the school district.

"I'm not against the school administration at all," she said. "I understand that the mandates and guidelines come from the state."

Labonte-Veras added that teachers and administrators "have no choice" but to comply with the standards. She said the School Committee has been "fantastic" and has worked with parents to help them understand problems related to Common

Core and PARCC.

Only one physical meeting has been held since the group was formed, an informational meeting, but Labonte-Veras plans to hold another meeting in the near future and is also trying to organize a Common Core forum for parents. The group has communicated primarily through emails and social media, including Facebook.

Christina Beauchemin, whose son just started kindergarten at the Granger School five months ago, said she joined APCF after talking with Labonte-Veras and other parents concerned about the Common Core's student assessments. Beauchemin has encouraged other parents to join the group's Facebook page.

Since forming the group — which currently has nearly 200 members, mostly Agawam parents — Labonte-Veras has spoken before the School Committee, met with state Sen. Donald Humason Jr. as well as City Councilor James Cichetti. She also plans to contact other city councilors and talk with state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga.

"In a short amount of time much has been learned, many contacts and meetings have taken place, and I feel that definite progress has happened in Agawam," said Labonte-Veras, who coordinates APCF from a computer in the kitchen of her apartment.

Referendum is 'ultimate goal'

As part of its advocacy efforts, APCF is working to put a non-binding referendum question on this November's ballot for municipal elections. Labonte-Veras added that the "ultimate goal" is to get a Common Core issue ballot question before state voters in the 2016 elections.

"This will give everyone — parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and administrators — a chance to have their opinions heard about these standards," she said.

In the meantime, Labonte-Veras said APCF will continue working with state lawmakers to introduce bills in the state Legislature: "We want to get Massachusetts back on track with the high standards we were known for before the Common Core standards were adopted."

Added Beauchemin: "Good or bad, parents need to know what's happening with their child's education. They need to be involved."

Beauchemin said the four elementary schools have recently held two informational nights to explain the Common Core assessments to parents.

"I think the formation of APCF and the questions parents have been asking kick-started these information sessions," said Beauchemin.

Starting a group to battle Common Core and PARCC has been "a huge undertaking" and much more involved than Labonte-Veras thought it would be. Despite the challenges, she remains committed to her cause.

"I will work, organize, and fight for our kids," she said. "They're our future — and they deserve the best we can give them," she said.

Teen program at the Agawam library

Teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited to an evening of favorite board games, and chocolate fondue on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. To register for this program, stop by the library, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or visit agawamlibrary.org.

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128 Park St. (West Springfield Senior Center)

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

St. John's deserves a response

The Catholic Church isn't a democracy, nor should it be.

But it doesn't take democracy to be transparent and compassionate. The Diocese of Springfield ought to be both.

First, let's reiterate that we're not talking about a typical elected leader when we discuss how the Roman Catholic bishop of Springfield has handled the reassignment of a priest from St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam. Critics of the bishop — who is also under fire regionally for reconsidering whether to rebuild Cathedral High School — need to remember that the rules of secular political debate, the concept of majority rule and the right to petition, simply don't apply to a voluntary organization that was born in the Roman Empire, matured in the Middle Ages and has survived far longer than any secular government.

Catholicism is a faith, it's a religion, it's a tradition, it's a hierarchy, it's a culture. It's many things — and it's been many more over its 2,000-year history — but nobody would ever confuse a Monsignor for a mayor, a cathedral for a state capitol, the Revelation for a referendum. You can choose to be part of the church, you can choose not to be part of the church, but you don't get to choose what the church is.

That said, the institution of the church exists for the same reason that the institution of a democratic government exists: To serve the needs of its people. Regardless of how its leaders are chosen, they have a moral obligation to their people. Public servants and servants of God, though they fulfill markedly different roles in our society, share one key word in their titles.

Does it serve the spiritual needs of the people to leave them in the dark about why their parish's administrator — their religious leader and father — will no longer minister to them?

The bishop probably had a good reason for the decisions he made. It would be comforting if he could let us know his reason — not out of obedience to some open government law or the will of the people, but out of respect for the spiritual lives of his fellow Catholics. The parish priest is the most influential clergyman, the most important religious relationship, in most Catholics' lives. To break that bond without explanation hardly seems compassionate.

But the bishop probably also has a good reason for withholding his reasoning. That's certainly not out of the ordinary; even in the relatively open realm of democratic government, personnel decisions are often made for reasons that can't be disclosed openly. It would still be comforting to hear him address the issue himself, even if just to explain publicly that this is a private matter, rather than stonewalling the media.

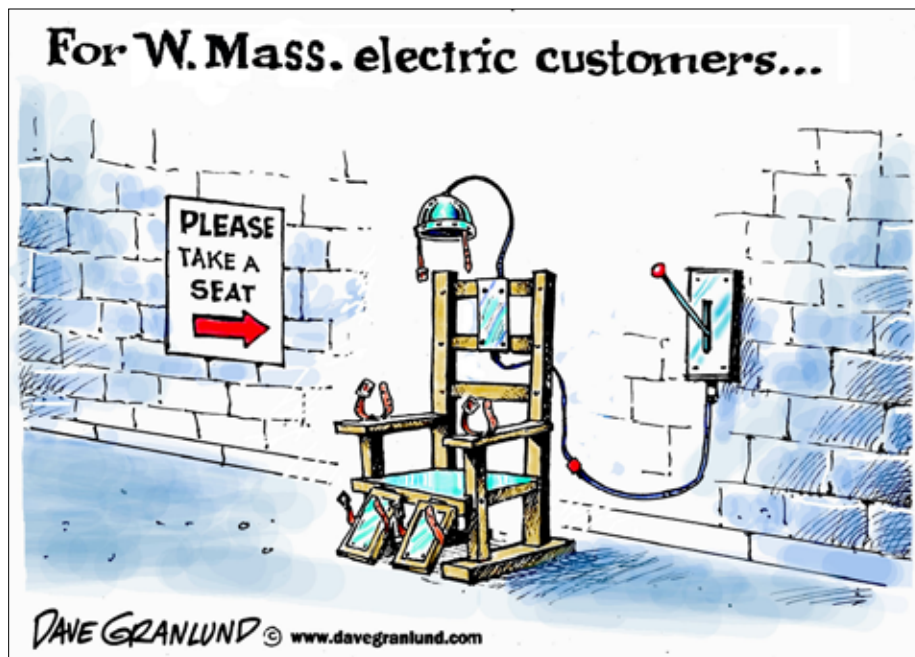
Instead, what we have is silence, which breeds gossip, speculation and resentment — hardly the cardinal virtues. Not because parishioners weren't given a vote, but because they weren't given an explanation.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

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JAY SPEAKS

Cruisers see the world – in the crew

Kitty and I have had the good fortune to enjoy a few cruises. Each one was on a different cruise ship line: Holland-American, Princess Line and Royal Caribbean.

On the most recent cruise, we were very impressed with the young people serving us. It might be at a meal, at poolside, during the shipboard entertainment, or in our cabin. They were all attentive, well spoken (in English) and when we asked about their home country, we were amazed to find a great difference as to where they were from.

Our trip began in Bradley Field, flying on to Dulles in Washington, then on to Paris. In Paris, we changed planes on our way to Barcelona.

In Barcelona, we turned in our luggage before boarding the ship. The languages that we heard in the shipside luggage area were of many cultures. We heard French, German, Russian, Slavic, Hebrew, Spanish, Arabic, and of course English.

The cruise line must have had a few interpreters, because very quickly they passed everyone through onto the ship.

The official languages that were seen on the menus and other signs were English, French, Italian, Greek, and Spanish, although watching movies one could select other languages.

But getting back to the young people employed by the cruise lines: We found time to question a few of them. How were they recruited? How many languages did they have to learn or know? For how long did they have to sign up for? Did this job open up other opportunities? Will they go back to school when this trip was over?

Of course, the answers were as varied as their country of origin. Examples: They

were recruited at a recruiting week at their high school or college. They should be fluent in at least two languages. They signed on for two cruises and yes, it did open up opportunities as they met and socialized with people from all over the globe.

We were so intrigued by this diversity of people that when we met the cruise director at one of our favorite cruise activities (trivia contests), we took her aside, and asked her if she could look up a question that we had: How many countries are represented among passengers and how many are represented by

the crew.

Just before the cruise ended in Athens, our cabin attendant handed us a letter from the cruise director giving us this detail. The different nations amongst the passengers totaled 11.

But the total amongst the crew was 52. They ranged from one person from Haiti to 100 or more from the Philippines.

I'll just enumerate a handful of the nations represented: Argentina, Australia, China, Finland, Hungary, Indonesia, Lithuania, Portugal, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey and Thailand.

Everyone appeared to get along and help one another. The passengers seemed to mix well. In essence it was a miniature United Nations. Kitty and I wondered if there was any lesson that diplomats could take from this.

Probably not! Perhaps they are too busy sniping at each other.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.



Jay Berger
Guest Columnist

TABLE FOR TWO

Breakfast lasagna

I love a hot breakfast on a cold winter morning. Although this dish can be prepared the night before and reheated in the microwave, I prefer the aroma of my Breakfast Lasagna while reading the morning newspaper in front of my roaring fire with my first or second cup of coffee.

Mushrooms, red peppers, and onions are a favorite veggie combination of mine but you may substitute with your own favorites. Asparagus and zucchini can be a good choice. I realize that you may consider it an unnecessary step to roast these veggies, but the added flavor resulting from roasting is well worth the extra step.

On occasion I have substituted cooked, crumbled, crisp bacon for the Canadian bacon, but I often prefer to add the crumbled bacon on top of the lasagna just

as it comes out of the oven. This keeps it crisp with an added dimension of flavor and crunch. I suggest using the "ready-to-serve" bacon that cooks in 30 seconds in the microwave ... no mess!



Ann Macey
Guest Columnist

Breakfast lasagna

- 1 1/4 C. chopped fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 C. finely chopped red bell pepper
- 2 T. chopped scallions
- 1 tsp. butter
- 2 slices Canadian bacon, diced
- 1 C. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 3 egg roll wrappers, cut in half
- 4 eggs

Line a cookie sheet with foil and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Place mushrooms and chopped pepper on top of foil. Spray veggies with nonstick cooking spray.

TABLE FOR TWO | page 5



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Are You Old News?

Each week the *Agawam Advertiser News* digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.



Last week's photo: Correctly identifying the Rev. Benjamin Lockhart were Alan Edwards, Walt Willard, Matt Blackak, Linda A. Hayes, Jessie Rivers and Joan Woods.



Make sure heating systems, generators are properly vented

Mayor Richard Cohen and the town plumbing and gas inspector are recommending that residents with newer heating systems, which are vented to the outside of the home, check to make sure the vents are not covered with snow. The recent snow amounts have the potential for covering the vents, which allows carbon monoxide to flow back into the home. Checking these vents can save lives.

Residents are also asked to check on elderly residents in their neighborhood in the event they have this situation.

Residents are reminded not to run generators in homes or garages. Generators have to run in well-vented areas.

Passes available for free ice skating

The town of Agawam has reserved a "block of ice" for free skating at Amelia Park in Westfield from 5 to 5:50 p.m. on Sunday, March 15.

There are 200 tickets available on a first-come basis. Town residents may pick up passes Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Recreation Office, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam.

Skate rentals will be available for \$3 per person at Amelia Park, which is located at 21 S. Broad St., Westfield.

TABLE FOR TWO ■ from page 4

Bake in a 425-degree oven for 8 minutes.

Add scallions and bacon to the cooked veggies and toss. Set aside. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. Spray the inside of an 8-inch by 4-inch by 2-inch loaf pan. Add butter and melt in oven. Cut each egg roll wrapper in half.

Place two half-sheets on bottom of loaf pan. Sprinkle half of veggie mixture over wrapper. Whisk two of the eggs and pour over veggies. Sprinkle half of the cheese on top.

With remaining ingredients, repeat layers in this order: wrapper, veggie mixture, eggs, wrapper, and cheese. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes or until eggs are cooked through.

NOTES: Egg roll wrappers are not a perfect fit to the loaf pan and will overlap. You may salt and pepper to taste at any point during the assembling of this dish.

Ann Macey is the author of "Ann's Table for Two: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes." Ann welcomes your questions and comments at AnnsTable@gmail.com.

Library offers children's programs for Feb. vacation

The Agawam Public Library will host the following children's winter programs. All programs are free but registration is required unless noted and may be done by going to www.agawamlibrary.org. For more information, visit the library or call Youth Services at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

Meet the Robots: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2-4 p.m. Demonstrations of robots designed and operated by Agawam school students in grades K-12. For ages 5 and older. Stop by the library and meet students from Agawam's Robotics teams and their robots. No registration required.

Greg & Axel Show presents "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" Friday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m. For ages 3 and older. If you love "Frozen," you'll love this brand new magic show. Children will help with magical routines to create all the snowman's parts and at the end a snowman will magically appear. This totally unique entertaining experience provides magic, comedy, audience participation and one hilarious dog.

Winter Fun Festival: Saturday, Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m. For ages 3 and older. The Agawam Library Teen Council offers a fun afternoon of games, crafts, food and face painting. Participants may join the fun anytime between 1-3 p.m.

During the Winter Program Session, a collection will be ongoing for the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. Paper towels and canned dog or cat food may be dropped off at the Children's Desk.

Please recycle this newspaper

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement- Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

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NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Business

Get to know Nina's Cookies

Location: 544 Springfield Street
Phone Number: 413-304-2075
Website: www.ninascokies.com
Email address: info@ninascokies.com
Owners/Manager Name:
 Maryann Whitehead & Lucy Mazza



Local Business Profile

How long have you been in business?
 5 Years

How did you begin your career?
 Back in the '80s when my children were in elementary school I started baking cookies as Christmas gifts for teachers and friends. Then someone said to me, "you should sell them." I started baking and selling cookies out of my home. Over the years business increased, especially during the holidays. As the business grew I needed help and asked my sister Lucy Mazza if she wanted to help. Lu-Mare's was launched in 2004. The business was growing and I outgrew my home. In 2008 Nina's Cookies was established and named in honor of our mother.

What do you stress most to your staff?
 To be friendly and accommodating.

What makes you stand out from the competition?
 Attention to detail. Listening and taking our time with the customers. Quality of product.

Describe your product or service.
 We offer a variety of traditional homemade Italian cookies and biscotti. Homestyle cookies such as chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin and more. Hand decorated sugar cookies for all occasions. Classic and signature cupcakes such as salted caramel, peanut butter ganache, cheesecake and more in standard sizes or minis. We also carry scones, large and mini cannoli and bread on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Additionally, we make cakes from everyday to birthday, special occasion and wedding.

Braman celebrates 125 years in business

Braman Termite and Pest Elimination, a leading provider of pest management services in southern New England since 1890, is celebrating 125 years in business. The business, originally founded in Boston in 1890, moved the headquarters to Agawam in 1980. Over the years, Braman has changed more than just its centralized location. The business of pest control has an interesting history of its own.

The original pest control products, created by "Mr. Braman" (to whom the business still owes its name), were displayed at a Boston meat market owned by Jack Lazarus. These homemade product recipes were left with Lazarus to continue developing when Braman retired. Lazarus then began a side business applying pesticides when customers complained homemade remedies did not work.

"In 1890, pest control was usually done at night or when no one was around," said Jerry Lazarus, third-generation owner of Braman Termite and Pest Elimination. The evolution of pest control has come a long way. In the

late 1800s, pest control was primarily done with kitchen sink concoctions made with ingredients like arsenic, which has a very distinct and unpleasant smell.

"The common view was that 'if it didn't stink, it didn't work.' Nowadays, if it stinks you have a problem," said Lazarus. "Pest control product development has come so far that they can be done in very controlled environments without displacement. We can even treat hospital rooms without moving patients, if needed."

Now, there are no "secret ingredients" and all products are scientifically tested to establish appropriate dosage, ensuring both efficacy and public safety. There are also technological advancements that have fueled the company's success decade after decade. Modern society might take technology like email, cell phones, bar code scanning, and global positioning systems for granted, but those advancements are what have helped Braman provide fast, efficient and customer-centered service.

Six Flags hiring seasonal employees

Six Flags New England is hiring 3,000 seasonal employees for the 2015 season. The annual job fair will be Friday, Feb. 27, from 3 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Human Resources building across the street from the theme park, 1756 Main St., Agawam.

Six Flags will be hiring for all positions, including admissions, culinary services, games, lifeguards, loss prevention, park services, EMT, security, entertainment and retail and rides.

Interested applicants must be at least 16 years old and should be dressed and prepared for on-the-spot interviews. It is rec-

ommended that all interested candidates apply online at sixflagsjobs.com prior to arrival.

Entertainment auditions will take place Sunday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Human Resources Building. Six Flags is seeking actors, dancers, characters, superheroes, drummers and technical staff for spring and summer shows.

For questions and more information, contact Human Resources at 413-786-9300, ext. 3100.

Six Flags New England will open for the season on Saturday, April 11.

Legals

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 28, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation, LTD dba Verizon Wireless which is seeking a Variance from Section 180-97 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a telecommunications tower with less than the required distance from the base of the tower to the property line at the premises identified as 491 Mill Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
 Agawam Board of Appeals
 2/5,2/12/15

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold

a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of SBA and T-Mobile which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-96, Paragraph A of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the installation of wireless communication antennas and equipment to an existing tower at the premises identified as 369 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
 Agawam Board of Appeals
 2/5,2/12/15

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 28, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:30 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Verizon

Wireless which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-96 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a telecommunications wireless service facility at the premises identified as 491 Mill Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
 Agawam Board of Appeals
 2/5,2/12/15

NOTICE OF BALLOON FLIGHT BY BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE OF MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATION, LTD. d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation, Ltd. d/b/a Verizon Wireless has filed an application for a special permit with the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals to erect a Personal Wireless Service Facility consisting of a 100 ft. monopole tower and a 12 x 26 ft. equipment shelter on property located at 491 Mill Street in Agawam, Massachusetts shown on Assessor's Map H10, Block 02, Lot 0017.

Verizon Wireless will fly a balloon at the proposed site for public viewing on **Tuesday, February 17, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** In the event of inclement weather, the balloon flight will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the same time. For any questions, contact Ellen W. Freyman, counsel to Verizon Wireless, at (413) 737-1131. 2/12/15

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, March 2, 2015, at 7:00 pm**, at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA to hear the petition of the Agawam City Council on a proposed zoning amendment (TOR-2015-1) to the Town's "Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District" by adding Section 180-95A. TOR-2015-1 is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office and the Planning Department, 36 Main Street, Agawam,

MA between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.
 BY ORDER OF:

Christopher C. Johnson
 President of the
 Agawam City Council
 2/12,2/19/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD15P0118EA Estate of:

Evelyn Joan Votzakis
 Also Known As:
Evelyn J. Votzakis
Date of Death:
December 18, 2014
**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Nancy Jo R. Renna** of Suffield CT, Petitioner **James P. Votzakis** of Agawam, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Nancy Jo R. Renna
 of Suffield, CT, **James P. Votzakis** of Agawam,

MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 2/12/15

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 70 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Feb. 3 to Feb.9.

On Feb. 3 at 1:10 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On Feb. 3 at 1:24 p.m., the department responded to Westview Lane for carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

On Feb. 3 at 1:59 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for good intent call, other.

On Feb. 3 at 2:57 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On Feb. 4 at 7:04 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 5 11:06 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 6 at 11:07 a.m., the department responded to Oriole Drive for lockout.

On Feb. 7 at 10:17 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Feb. 7 at 6 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Feb. 8 at 2:24 a.m., the department responded to Elizabeth Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Feb. 8 at 2:27 a.m., the department responded to Sunnyslope Avenue for carbon monoxide incident.

On Feb. 8 at 9:55 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for citizen complaint.

On Feb. 8 at 5:21 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 8 at 6:19 p.m., the department responded to Maynard Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 9 at 12:52 a.m., the department responded to Ridgeway Drive for good intent call, other.

On Feb. 9 at 6:33 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 322 calls for service from Feb. 3 to Feb. 9. The department made 3 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Stephen N. Smith, 26, of 24 Granger Drive, Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of possession of a Class A drug and operating a motor vehicle with license suspended.

Friday, Feb. 6

Leslie Westbrook, 44, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 30, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of possession of a Class B drug, subsequent offense.

Donison L. Coles, 44, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 30, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of possession of a Class B drug, subsequent offense.



Banish Misfortune will play traditional Irish music March 6 at the Agawam Senior Center. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Irish music sextet to play next month

The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues on Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m. when the sextet Banish Misfortune performs a program of traditional Irish music at the Agawam Senior Center. Instrumentation of the group includes fiddle, concertina, mandolin, accordion, flute, and guitar, with which they perform rousing sets of jigs, reels, hornpipes, waltzes, polkas and airs, as well as the occasional inspired song or accompanied Irish poem.

All of the group's members hail from western Massachusetts, some having played together for decades. David Brule (fiddle), a published author fluent in Irish Gaelic as well as several other languages, brings his love of Irish poetry to the band. Sean Burke (mandolin, bouzouki), born in County Mayo, Ireland, roots the group's sensibilities with his genuine approach to the music and remarkable repertoire of heartfelt songs. Tim Donoghue (con-

certina) is legendary among local Irish musicians, with a keen wit and wellspring of Irish songs tucked in his back pocket, from bawdy to beguiling. Kira Jewett is an acclaimed All-Ireland Fiddle Champion and an award-winning high school biology teacher. T.J. Ezold (flute, accordion, banjo, whistle), a Berklee College of Music graduate and local flight instructor, sets the tunes aloft with his soaring musicianship. And David Meuser (guitar) instills his accompaniment with his lifelong affection for traditional Irish music and culture.

This event is sponsored by Bridgeport National Bindery.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

More information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch menu

MONDAY, FEB. 16: PRESIDENTS DAY OBSERVED. SENIOR CENTER CLOSED.

TUESDAY, FEB. 17: SAUSAGE, HAM AND SEAFOOD PAELLA, SALAD, CAKE.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: MACARONI AND CHEESE, STEWED TOMATOES, CORN MUFFINS, PINEAPPLE.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19: ROAST CHICKEN CACCIATORE, PEPPERS AND ONIONS, PASTA AND SAUCE, PUDDING.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20: BAKED FISH, RICE PILAF, BUTTERED SPINACH, PEACHES.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, FEB. 16: PRESIDENTS DAY OBSERVED. SENIOR CENTER CLOSED.

TUESDAY, FEB. 17: 9 A.M., EXERCISE, KNITTING CLASS, SEWING CLASS; 10 A.M., CHAIR EXERCISE; 12:30 P.M., LADIES BILLIARDS, MAH

JONGG, MOVIE; 1 P.M., MEXICAN TRAIN GAME; 2:30 P.M., CHORUS; 4:30 P.M., YOGA; 6 P.M., BEGINNER LINE DANCE; 6:30 P.M., EVENING SEWING CLASS.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: 8 A.M., WEIGHT TRAINING; 8:15 A.M., YOGA; 8:30 A.M., MEET THE MAYOR; 9:45 A.M., GENTLE YOGA; 12:30 P.M., BRIDGE; 1 P.M., BALLROOM LESSONS, SCRABBLE; 1:30 P.M., GOLDEN AGERS CHAPTER 2 MEETING; 5:30 P.M., ZUMBA GOLD.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19: FREE TAX PREP (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY); 8:30 A.M., CHAIR EXERCISE; 9 A.M., EXERCISE; 9:30 A.M., QUILTING; 10 A.M., LINE DANCING; 12:30 P.M., BRIDGE; 1 P.M., PITCH, OPEN ART CLASS; 2 P.M., MELODY BAND PRACTICE; 6:30 P.M., PITCH, EVENING LINE DANCING.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20: 8 A.M., YOGA; 9:15 A.M., ALL MEDIA ART; 10 A.M., TAI CHI; NOON, CANASTA; 1 P.M., PITCH, CRIBBAGE; 5:30 P.M., ZUMBA GOLD.

Agawam Day scheduled in Fla.

The annual Agawam Day Picnic will be held Wednesday, March 4, at Fort DeSoto Park just outside of St. Petersburg, Fla. Arrival time is anytime after 10:30 a.m. at Shelter 14, which overlooks the bay. All are invited to join many former and current residents of Agawam and their friends.

Those attending are asked to bring lunches and beverages and a gift for the door prize table. For more information, call 941-359-9597 or 413-250-2955.

Lions to host a night of comedy

The Agawam Lions Club will host its 11th annual Comedy Night on Saturday, March 21, at the Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by the show at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked bring their own snacks and table decorations. There is no host bar.

Performance headliner is Brad Masstrangelo. Advance tickets are \$20; at the door, \$25. For more information contact, Shawn Disley at 413-687-0268, email dizydizz@gmail.com or visit www.agawamlions.org/events.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit lionsclubs.org.

Cultural Council meets Feb. 17

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

A great opportunity exists with the ACC for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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PARISH ■ from page 1

seeking an explanation. That letter was signed by Council President Judy Donahue, Haire said. He said he and his wife have also mailed letters.

Haire said he is disappointed that Rozanski has not responded to parishioners, but acknowledged that the bishop is not under an obligation to do so.

“There is not any Catholic law that obligates him to answer to us,” Haire said. “It does not seem right or fair, but it is what it is.”

One parishioner who has been especially vocal about Parzynski being replaced is Kristin Hodges, a 22-year member of the church who says she saw Parzynski make a positive impact in his short, about 18-month tenure in the community.

“We did a survey and one of the goals that came out of the survey was to increase the participation among the youth in the community,” said Hodges. “Father Tomasz has done that and I think it would have a very negative impact on our church if he is transferred.”

She claims since Parzynski has been the administrator of the parish, attendance at regular masses has increased among youths. She also says their participation in religious education has increased.

Hodges, who volunteers regularly with the church and also has a 16-year-old son who is involved, claims since the announcement of Tomasz’s departure, the youth involvement has scaled back and also the number of youths considering a future in vocation has decreased.

She and many other parishioners are blaming the issue on Bishop Rozanski for a perceived lack of communication with the parish.

“He has been the bishop for a while and he has never visited our parish,” said Hodges. “In a statement he claimed his replacement of Father Tomasz was for the good of the diocese. If he had visited our parish, then he would be able to see the good he has done. If our objective is to perpetu-

ate faith, then Father Tomasz has certainly achieved that. Our youth is the future of our faith.”

Numerous letters and phone calls were made to the bishop asking for reconsideration, but they have gone unanswered and plans for Tomasz to be transferred out of the community are moving forward.

While it was announced McGrath would become the church’s new administrator beginning Feb. 27, Parzynski has yet to know his assignment, Hodges said.

“As of this past Sunday, he still was not made aware of where he was going,” Hodges said a week ago. “I know this could be part of some bigger plan, but we are really disappointed he is leaving.”

Helen Light, a parishioner at the church for many years, said she respects the decisions made by the bishop, and acknowledges Parzynski made a few mistakes while at the helm of the church.

“He expressed frustration in mass telling us that he had been called to the bishop’s office,” said Light. “Part of the rules of being in the vocation is to obey the bishop. I hope he is able to find success and I wish him good luck in whatever he does next.”

New pastor from St. Mary's

McGrath said he was saddened to learn he was leaving St. Mary’s Church in Westfield. He served there for more than 13 years. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to St. John’s and will do his best to lead the church in a positive direction.

“I am excited to come and be a part of St. John’s,” said McGrath. “The community and this church have a rich tradition and I look forward to the challenge.”

Parzynski was not available for comment. The bishop’s office in Springfield did not return calls from the Agawam Advertiser News seeking comment.

HIRING ■ from page 1

Mineo and George Bitzas.

Bitzas was adamant that Suffriti should have the right to withdraw his proposal. Johnson disagreed, and said another councilor may wish to sponsor the resolution after learning more about it.

“It is possible we could do this with another sponsor or amendments to this resolution,” Letellier suggested.

Bitzas objected.

“If a sponsor wants to withdraw his resolution, he should be able to do that,” said Bitzas.

Johnson again disagreed, saying it was not the past practice of the council.

Mineo also chimed in, saying he believed it stated in the rules that Suffriti could withdraw his resolution at any time.

Councilor Paul Cavallo said he wanted to see the rule the issue applied to, but agreed with Mineo and Bitzas.

Bitzas also challenged Cichetti not to put the item on the Legislative Subcommittee agenda, which prompted Johnson to cut off Bitzas’ discussion with Cichetti on the issue.

The following day, Bitzas told the Agawam Advertiser News he researched the issue. He said a sponsor’s right to withdraw a resolution at any time is in Robert’s Rules of Order. He said there is no council rule or town charter rule that supercedes that.

Bitzas expressed disappointment over how his opinion was treated at the council meeting.

Cichetti also said the battling between councilors was unfortunate, and another great reason for a charter review committee to be developed and look over all the rules for clarification and modernization.

On Sunday morning, Cohen confirmed he had met with Suffriti. A few department heads that represent administrative unions also attended the meeting. Cohen said he and the department heads gave Suffriti some information about how department heads are chosen. Cohen also said he was warned by the union they would file a grievance for a change in working conditions if the resolution were passed.

Currently, the mayor, as head of the executive branch of town government, has the sole authority to hire the heads of town departments.



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Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



In the Classroom

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: Sabrinna Dubiel: Bay Path University; Taylor Heinbokel: Bay Path University; Lexi Cears: Elms College, Bay Path University; Mike Costello: University of New England, UMass Amherst, University of Albany; Alex Dusza: Mount Ida College, American International College; Carly Evelyn: Quinnipiac University; Emily Feid: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences; Heather Howe: Springfield College, UMass Amherst, Gordon College; Taylor Kareta: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences; Jordan Lunden: Springfield College, Westfield State University, Roger Williams University, Assumption College, Quinnipiac University; Kaitlyn Martin: The College of Saint Rose; Irina Mita: Westfield State University, Springfield Technical Community College; Kyla McGurn: University of Central Florida; Rylie Molloy: University of New England, University of New Hampshire, Bridgewater State University, UMass Dartmouth; University of Maine Farmington, Worcester State University; Lauren Rinaldi: Salve Regina University; Cameron Rivest: Springfield College, Southern Connecticut State University, University of Rhode Island; Allison Schwarz: University of Rhode Island; Ashley Webster: Quinnipiac University, Fairfield University, Saint Anselm College, Bridgewater State College; Alex Haupt: Elms College, Westfield

State University.

Seniors: Please let Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office know what college/university you have been accepted into.

Social Work at Western New England University: WNEU and the Department of Social Work will hold an open house and informational luncheon for juniors and seniors to learn more about the program on Feb. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Students must register for this by Feb. 14 at www.wne.edu/openhouereg.

Free Financial Aid Application Assistance for Mass. Residents: American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid application at centers and over the phone by calling 877-332-4348. Visit www.asa.org/plan for more information.

FAFSA Day (College Goal Sunday): A volunteer driven program providing free assistance to students and families seeking to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. at Holyoke Community College. For more information, visit www.fafsaday.org.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

CAMPUS NOTES...

Assumption College: Cristina Zaffetti, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Becker College: Brandon Casey, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

College of the Holy Cross: Robert Carrier, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Coastal Carolina University: Elizabeth Caracciolo, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester president's list.

Emerson College: Mariesa Negosanti, of Agawam, was selected for induction into the college's Purple Key Leadership Society.

Framingham State University: Kelsey DeMatteo, of Agawam, and Alycia Rackliffe, of Feeding Hills, were named to the president's list for the fall semester.

Keene State College: Liana Blais, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Springfield College: Leah Dominique, of Agawam; and Amanda Ehresman, Colleen Keeley, Anna Lovotti, Edrine Olowo,

Christopher Rumpalik, Kali Thomas, Nicholas Vecchiarelli and Christina Vilkhovoy, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Springfield Technical Community College: Nedime Ahmeti, Anna Baranov, Lauren Bava, Jeffrey Benson, Tyler Brandon, Marc Couture-King, Il'ya Demka, Nicole Despang, Jeffrey Garfield, Jeffery Gilbert, Rose Heurtelou, Samantha Hulse, Nicholas Korniyenko, Zachary Lamsey, Rebecca Leithoff, Kelly Martin, Jeffrey Pickett, Anna Serra and Vitaliy Tsukanov, of Agawam; and Lisa Allen-Geissler, Kristen Bradley, Lisa Carney, Vincent DeRose, DevaMarie DeVos-Moore, Adam Gay, Deborah Griffin, Renate Klueh, Gabriella Leon, Joseph Marquette, Anthony Marsili, Veronica Moquin, Phoebe Owuor, Elizabeth Rohan, Samantha Sabola and Anthony Saccomani, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute: Gaetano Scuderi, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

HCHS to present 'Curtain Call, Again'

Holyoke Catholic High School Performing Arts will present "Curtain Call, Again," an evening of music and dance, on Friday, Feb. 27, and Saturday, Feb. 28.

The performances will take place at Commonwealth Academy, One Ames Hill

Road, Springfield, at 7 p.m.

Tickets, which are \$12 for students and seniors and \$14 for adults, may be purchased by calling Amanda at 413-777-4701 or emailing Amanda.Malouin@gmail.com.

Writing contest winners named

The Agawam Cultural Council will hold a reception to honor winners of the fifth annual Writing Competition on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the community room at the Agawam Public Library. Winners in all categories that qualified for judging will share their work. Various dignitaries have been invited. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring this event as part of its "Give Back to the Community Program." The event is open to the public.

First place winners will be awarded \$50; second place, \$25; third place, \$15. Award winners in each category are as follows.

Kindergarten through grade 2 (written paragraph or art poster on the theme of "Your favorite book character"): Corabella Johnson, first place; Emma LaCaresse, second place; Caleb Kendrick, third place.

Grade 3 (composition on "How would you convince your parents to buy you a pet?"): Ryan Stairs, first place; Brianna Anderson, second place; Olivia Gryszowka, third place.

Grade 4 ("A poem about your favorite

activity"): Hana Ahmed, first place; Genevieve Charette, second place; Zoe Hartmann, third place.

Grades 5-6 (composition on "Your favorite famous person, past or present"): Domenic Vecchiarelli, first place; Inessa Schneider, second place; Dayne Gottier, third place.

Grades 7-8 (composition on "What makes you happy?"): Kayla Herlihy, first place; Isabella Dimino, second place; Gianna Yacavone, third place.

Insufficient entries were received from the high school category for judging.

The Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper St. and can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Junior Women scholarships available

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is once again accepting applications for scholarships that will be awarded to deserving high school seniors who reside in Agawam or Feeding Hills and are planning to further their education in the current year. Applicants for the AJWC General Scholarship will be considered with an emphasis placed on those individuals who have volunteered in the community.

In addition to the AJWC General Scholarship, the Mouneimneh Future Teacher Scholarship for \$1,000 will be awarded to a senior who is pursuing a degree in education. This scholarship is sponsored by Kathy Mouneimneh, retired Agawam High School teacher and former School Committee member. The stipend Mouneimneh received as a School Com-

mittee member is being housed by the AJWC, and the club members assist her in selecting its recipient each year.

Both scholarship applications are available online on the AHS website under the "counseling" tab. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who are high school seniors but do not attend AHS can access the applications online or at their respective high schools. Both scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1 and returned to GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Janine Iacolo. For more information, email Iacolo@agawamgfwc.com.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest female volunteer organizations in the world.

Preschool will hold open house

The Agawam Early Childhood Center, which offers a comprehensive, quality and reasonably priced preschool experience for 3- and 4-year-olds, will hold an open house Thursday, Feb. 26.

The preschool program provides all students with a standards-based education that builds the foundation for all future learning with the Agawam Public Schools. It includes a developmentally appropriate curriculum where all children learn

through play and hands-on activities.

To see what the program has to offer, attend the open house Feb. 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. at 108 Perry Lane in Agawam.

Applications are currently being taken for both morning and afternoon sessions. For an application, call 413-821-0597 or visit www.agawampublicschools.org, select "Our School" and "Early Childhood Center."

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Past Colleens reflect on title reigns

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Being the Agawam Colleen has instilled a sense of pride, history, and heritage in the 14 young women who have had the honor.

From Danielle DeForge, the initial Agawam Colleen in 2001, to last year's winner, Kelly Theriault, past Colleens have enjoyed the tradition and community service of the annual St. Patrick's Day honor.

Theriault just completed her final duty as Colleen — giving her farewell speech and passing on the crown to the next one, the 15th in the history. She said last month that she was excited to continue the farewell speech tradition.

Becoming Colleen is not a simple process, she said. She went through the process of interviews, followed by rehearsal events, teas and dress fittings. But the day she was named the Colleen, she started a wonderful year-long process of fun events, bonding with her court, and representing the community in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke.

"Having the opportunity to be part of the 2014 Colleen and Court of Agawam was such an amazing experience," said Theriault. "From the nerves of interview day and Coronation through the joy of seeing our families in Holyoke in the freezing cold, we have been through a lot together."

"I made amazing memories with my court and all of the committee members. I have learned so much about my friends, my heritage, and my community."

Theriault was proud to play a part in the 15th coronation.

"The members of the Agawam Saint Patrick's Committee put so much work into everything they have done for the past 15 years, and the outcome has always been incredible," said Theriault. "I have never met a group of people more proud of whom they are. Just last week the girls and I got together for spaghetti and some scrap booking and we realized that this was going to be something lifelong and we have the Committee to thank for that. We have become our own little Irish family."

The positive feelings among the Colleens seems common.

Alyson (Garvey) Thebodo was the second Colleen, receiving the honor in 2002.

Thebodo decided to do the pageant be-

cause she wanted more of a connection to her Irish heritage.

"I didn't see myself as the pageant type," said Thebodo. "But I was pleasantly surprised that everyone was so down-to-earth and it was a positive experience."

Thebodo actually tried out to be a Colleen in 2001, and was among the 20 finalists, but did not make it to the court.

"I went home and was sad, but I told my mom I would work harder and practice and try next year," said Thebodo. "I gained a lot of confidence and I won the next year. It was the best thing I gained from the contest."

Thebodo said she made friendships and lasting memories from the contests.

"The parade was so exciting," she said. "Having all those people smile at you. I even think a few girls got marriage proposals. I have stayed in touch with my court over the years. I would recommend this to anyone because the confidence I have gained helped me in other aspects of my life and the friendships I have made were priceless."

In 2010, five years ago, Brie Newton was the honoree as Colleen.

"Entering was my dream [ever] since I was a little girl and I would watch the parade," said Newton.

Newton says it is hard to pick a favorite part of the process.

"The entire thing is so exciting," said Newton. "I loved attending all the events in Agawam. Some people don't realize all the things we do, like the dinners at the senior center, and painting shamrocks with the court."

The experience brought another winner even closer to her heritage.

Buoyed by winning her contest, Jess Colson, the 2011 winner, spent a few months in Ireland. She studied abroad in Galway, Ireland, for four months.

"I consider it my second home and I can't wait to go back," said Colson.

Colson agreed Colleens are held to a high standard.

"They are recognized throughout the community and it was such a blessing to use the title for good purposes," said Colson. "Other young ladies should definitely want to take part in this contest. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience."



Agawam's Colleen Court, from left: Allison Schwarz, Alissa O'Connell, 2015 Colleen Lauren Muszynski, Michaela Calabrese and Marissa Ewing.



Laurie O'Connell watches as her daughter, Kaitlyn O'Connell, places a 2015 Court sash on Michaela Calabrese. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

COLLEEN ■ from page 1

against cancer. She believes that strength comes from those Irish roots.

Muszynski went through a series of interviews, a tea time and dress fitting to prepare for the coronation. She says the experience has been amazing, and she has made several new friends.

"I never knew that many people from Agawam," said Muszynski. "So getting the opportunity to meet all the other contestants from Agawam was fantastic. All of the girls were so nice and accepting of me and Michaela [Calabrese, one of the court members] since we both came from the same school, Holyoke Catholic. They all made me feel welcome and a little less nervous; we had a fun time waiting for the interviews just talking."

Muszynski learned from the contests that she does not need to be the best at everything or know the right people.

"You just have to go into it with an open mind and know that it doesn't matter if you win or lose," said Muszynski. "All that matters is that you learn to have fun doing it and not stress too much about it because it really is a fun process that I made great friends in and I can't wait for all the fun in these next few months."

Upon hearing her name announced as the Colleen, Muszynski was "absolutely shocked."

"Millions of emotions were running through my head at that time," she said. "I was excited and overjoyed that I had won, but also sad because the three other girls at the table with me had not, and I really liked them. I was so overjoyed because my family isn't usually this fortunate, but I saw my parents' faces and I knew they were so proud of me. I couldn't believe that I had won; it felt like a dream, I'm still shocked."

After winning the competition, Muszynski received an additional treat before the snowfall hit.

"Kelly Theriault, last year's Colleen, made a sweet and totally unexpected visit to my house Sunday after the coronation,"

said Muszynski. "She gave me flowers and told me all about her experience as Colleen. She told me all about how the little girls look up to you as though you're a real live princess, and how you get to go to fun events and meet with other towns' colleens and courts, like the 'love in'."

"That is one event that I am really excited for because some of my friends from my school became either colleen or court of other towns. Kelly also told me that we get to become really close as a group and the Ladies Irish Tea is just the beginning of it. That is also one of the events I'm really looking forward to. When she stopped by, she told me and my family that she really didn't know why she was chosen, but I do. She is one of the sweetest people I have ever met and she told me that I could always come to her with questions about anything, and I plan on it."

Muszynski is very active at Holyoke Catholic. She has been running track for all four years. She also has danced for 11 years and is an altar server. She is looking at attending college for fashion merchandising. She has not chosen a destination yet.

She expressed appreciation to the Berteira and others for their support.

"I just want to say thank you to my parents for supporting me throughout this whole process," said Muszynski. "They always believed that I could do this. I want to say thank you to Nicole Berteira because without her I probably would never have even applied. And I want to say congratulations to my other court members and I can't wait to spend these next few months with them and become better friends."

Joining Muszynski in the 2015 Colleen Court are Allison Schwarz, Alissa O'Connell, Michaela Calabrese, and Marissa Ewing. Erin Curran received a special award as Miss Spirit. All of the finalists were students at Agawam High School, except Calabrese and Muszynski, who attend Holyoke Catholic.



From left to right, Colleen court members Mari Leclerc, Courtney Rivest, 2011 Colleen Jessica Colson, and court members Alexis Lussier and Carly Michel. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Colleen Alyson (Garvey) Thebodo waves from the St. Patrick's Day float representing Agawam in the 2002 parade. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AUSTEN ■ from page 1

Starting with two “undressed” mannequins, Carle proceeded to “dress” Bennet and Darcy in actual vintage or authentically reproduced undergarments, clothing and accessories from early 19th century England. As she dressed the two characters, Carle offered humor and interesting anecdotes about fashion, home life and etiquette of men and women of that era.

Carle also read from Austen’s letters and novels and presented illustrations that depicted clothing styles described in the novels. Following her historical fashion show, Carle fielded questions from the audience, which was allowed to get an up-close look at the clothes and accessories.

The free public event on Feb. 6 was presented by the Agawam Cultural Council as part of its Applause Series presentations. Carle, the artistic director for the East Haddam Stage Company in East Haddam, Conn., drew on her extensive background in theater, dance and historical fashion for the “Fashion in Fiction” program she has presented for the past three years. Carle has staged historical programs for more than two decades.



Above, Gary LaPerle, of Chicopee, volunteers for a demonstration by Kandie Carle of a man's tie fashionable in England 200 years ago.



Kandie Carle holds a small statue of Jane Austen, who used clothing and fashion to enhance and define characters, delineate class and develop plot points in her fiction.



At left, In England 200 years ago, a folding fan – like the one Kandie Carle is holding – was a stylish and necessary fashion accessory for women.



West Springfield resident Karen Simpson, left, and Springfield residents Jennifer Fleury and her daughter Andromeda, 12, listen as Kandie Carle demonstrates a parasol following the show.



From left, Ann McDonald, of Feeding Hills, and Agawam residents Katy and JoAnne Krause examine some vintage clothing accessories and books.



Kandie Carle dresses “Fitzwilliam Darcy,” a character from “Pride and Prejudice.”



Carle gives the audience of about 60 a close-up look at her 19th century stockings.



Kandie Carle dresses “Elizabeth Bennet,” a character from Jane Austen’s 1814 novel “Pride and Prejudice.”

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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Agawam overwhelms Minnechaug

By Nate Rosenthal

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Agawam hockey team has been a powerhouse all season, and have been arguably the best team in Western Mass. They did nothing to dispel that notion against Minnechaug, beating them 9-1.

The shots and goals came in bunches and there was little that the Falcons could do to stop them.

Minnechaug has played well at times and were in the midst a solid spell having won three in a row and six of eight. But the Brownies proved to be too much for them. It was 4-1 after one and then the game got out of hand, with Agawam scoring five times in the second period. The Falcons never seemed to have a chance in that second frame, as they were out shot 29-4 over 15:00.

The Brownies wasted little time getting off a shot on goal, as Zach Circosta put one on Stephen Bidus from 8 feet in the first minute, some 40 seconds into the game. Though there were no more shots over the next couple of minutes, the Brownies were right around the net. With 2:30 gone, a Falcon penalty gave the Brownies a power play. A minute into the penalty, Agawam scored and it was Circosta going short side from the right, 3 feet out. He took a pass from Seamus Curran who was near the blue line and knocked it. The time was 3:27 and Agawam led 1-0.

They kept the pressure on and at 5:25, Cam Rivest put one on goal. Forty-five seconds later, Chris Breault was 10 feet out and his shot found its way to Bidus.

The Falcons got their first shot 20 seconds later or 6:28 into the game. It was Noah Hemenway with a hard one from the right circle. Connor McAnanama had no trouble blocking it.

At 7:04, Minnechaug was called for a penalty and 19 seconds later, they were two men short.



Agawam's Kyle Toti (20) takes a look up the ice. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Agawam's Don Ingham (22) looks to play the puck along the boards.



Agawam goalie Connor McNamara waits for some action to come in his direction.

HOCKEY | page 13

WRESTLING

Agawam cruises to win over Chicopee

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam wrestling team followed up on their win of the Valley League title by defeating Chicopee in dual meet action last Wednesday night.

The Pacers have been suffering from depth issues, and only had eight wrestlers available to compete, essentially giving the Brownies the meet by forfeit.

But Agawam earned the victory for themselves by winning more of their matches in the title.

The matches took place at most of the light and middle-weights as Chicopee had no grapplers able to compete in the final six weight classes with the exception of 182 pounds.

The meet was started by Chicopee's Joshua McMullan, who got a win for the Pacers at 120 pounds. He scored an early takedown and then picked up two more points with a nearfall against Jimmy Adams.

McMullan kept Adams off balance with his quick-moving legs. He would eventually lock up Adams' arm and got another nearfall. With time running out,



Agawam's Daigon Bishop locks up with Chicopee's Matthew Swenor. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Joshua McMullan takes control of his match against Agawam's Jimmy Adams.

WRESTLING | page 13

WRESTLING

Blais joins milestone club

Pins down 100th win at tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - Two weeks ago, Nick Blais was the latest to join many other Western Massachusetts grapplers as reaching the 100 career wins club.

Blais scored the milestone victory on Jan. 31 when he defeated Jon Lancia, of Port Chester, N.Y., at a tournament on the road. Blais scored the pin in just 34 seconds, but said he still needed to study his opponent because he

had not faced in him in the past.

"During the match, I started off studying my opponent for a short time," said Blais, who competes at 182 pounds regularly. "Then I quickly took control with a tie up, then used a front headlock position into a backwards trip to secure the takedown into the pin."

"I knew that if I won that match it would have been my 100th career win, I've been keeping my record every year in a

BLAIS | page 14

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brownies clinging to postseason hopes

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Brownies are trying to hold on to their opportunity to compete in the Western Massachusetts Division I Tournament as they cling to third place in their league and a 6-10 record in boys basketball.

After a huge win over Chicopee Comp, the Brownies suffered two key losses against South Hadley and Sabis before defeating Ludlow last Friday night on

the road.

Agawam's very young offense has shown the ability to be explosive at times, and when their shooting is on, it has scored a lot of points, especially from long distance.

Last Friday night, the Brownies were all over the Lions in the second meeting of the team between the two teams. The Brownies prevailed 77-38, their second highest offensive showing of the season. Their best mark was 80

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Sports



Agawam's Zach Housman (28) controls the puck as he looks to make a play up the ice. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

HOCKEY ■ from page 12

It took the Brownies just 22 seconds to get their second goal, a wide angle shot by Joe Mercadante from the left side, 5 feet away from the goal. Rivest and Curran had the assists at 7:45.

The Falcons were able to clear and at 9:33, Anthony Piteo put one on the side of the net. There was a scramble in front and the puck went out to Cam Mariani, who was on the right side 6 feet away. His shot got past McAnanama at 10:06 and Minnechaug had got back to 2-1.

The Brownies came right back down the ice. At 11:05, John Colwell put a 15-footer on Bidus. Seconds later, Michael Pfau blasted one from just outside the right faceoff circle. A penalty followed, but the Falcons killed it off. Agawam kept up the pressure. Rivest hit the pipe right after the penalty and with 47 seconds left he put one on goal from 5 feet. Bidus stopped that. But 4 seconds later, he could not stop a shot from Colwell from 5 feet. Rivest and Anthony Passerini had the assists. With 30 seconds to go, Agawam made it 4-1, as Rivest fed Curran with a cross ice pass. Piteo did get a shot on goal from 10 feet with a minute left for the Falcons. Through the first period, Agawam held a 14-7 lead in shots.

In the first 30 seconds of the second period, Breault and Dom Ingham had shots on goal, the latter going off the crossbar. At the 57-second mark, Breault scored after a shot by Colwell rebounded back out to him on the left side. Less than a minute alter, the Brownies had a break-away and at 2:47, they scored. John Passerini one-timed a pass from Niko Passerini. Brett Fila also had an assist on the play.

A minute after that, Mercadante and then Fila had shots that were stopped by Bidus and at 4:53, it was Niko Passerini on goal.

Hemenway got the first Falcon shot of the second at 5:14 from 3 feet away on the left. McAnanama stopped it. Through those 5:00 plus, before the Minnechaug shot, Agawam had 15.

The Brownies cleared quickly and it led to another goal at 5:37 by Colwell from Breault to make it 7-1. At 7:55, Kyle Toti scored from 3 feet out on the left, going far side. Zack Houseman assisted. At that point, Eric Szymczyk replaced Bidus in goal.

At 8:34, Mariani had a shot on goal for the Falcons and at 10:18, Agawam was called for a penalty. While still on the power play, Piteo had a shot on goal ay 11:39.

Agawam made it 9-1 with 1:59 to go in the second as Toti scored on a feed from Mercadante. After the second, the shot totals were 44 for Agawam and 11 for Minnechaug.

As Agawam had drawn a penalty late in the second, they went the first minute of the third, shorthanded, 45 seconds later, they had a power play. Minnechaug managed to get off a shorthanded shot 3:08 into the third as Tyler Rose put one on from 6 feet out. That was the first shot for either team in the third. Hemenway followed seconds alter.

In fact, the Falcons would play the Brownies evenly in the third, as neither team scored and each had six shots. The most notable ones for Minnechaug came at 5:39 by Piteo from 10 feet away and at 8:23 Mariani from 6 feet away. The Falcons had the puck in Agawam zone for most of the minutes of the third, but they could not get it past McAnanama.

The final tally on shots was 50 for Agawam and 17 for Minnechaug.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Second quarter too much for Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam's Alli Wheeler tried to get the Brownies back into the game at the buzzer.

But it was a dismal first half allowed Ludlow to keep their momentum going in the second half and the Lions left Agawam with a 51-27 victory in girls basketball action last Thursday night.

Agawam and Ludlow played very tough on defense during the first quarter, with Ludlow not having a big advantage 6-2.

In the second quarter, the Lions were able to figure it out and make some shots as they jumped out to a 27-6 lead in the final minute of the quarter. Wheeler came up with a 3-pointer to help the Brownies stay alive near halftime.

Things started to go Agawam's way very briefly in the second half as Meghan D'Amours came up with a layup to start the second half, making it 27-11. Christie Mirski hit a free throw to make it 29-12.

But Ludlow started to pour on the offense again. Anasatacia Papuga would nail a free throw to get the Lions going.

She'd be followed by a long shot from Taylor Masse, and at the end of the third quarter, Ludlow had a 34-20 lead.

Ludlow cruised from there. Their only hiccup was early

in the fourth when D'Amours had a layup and a free throw for a three-point play, making it 34-23.

But Papuga nailed a 3-pointer to put the momentum right back on the Lions' side of the ball. D'Amours would make two more baskets for Agawam, but Ludlow would own the remainder of the game, scoring the final 10 points over the course of 5:00.

Alyssa Guyon started with a short jumper with 5:09 left, and then made a mid-range shot to make it 45-27.

Kierra McCarthy then hit a layup, and Papuga finished off the scoring late.

Guyon would lead all scorers with 23 points. She made eight field goals, and two 3-pointers. Most of her scoring came in Ludlow's big second quarter. Papuga had nine points, including a pair of treys. Masse would finish with seven points.

D'Amours would have a good game for the Brownies, leading the team with 13 points. Mirski would finish with seven points, including a pair of treys.

Agawam has had a tough season, but their long losing streak broke up with a pair of wins over East Longmeadow and Palmer.

Agawam will play Friday at Amherst at 7 p.m. They will also have to make up a snowed out game against South Hadley.



Christie Mirski makes her way down the court.



Samantha Stratton hauls in a rebound. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Sports



Agawam's Joseph Joyal tries to keep control in his match at 132 pounds against Chicopee's Javon Robbins. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WRESTLING ■ from page 12

Adams tried for an escape, but got trapped into a pin by McMullan with four seconds left in the first period.

Daigan Bishop got Agawam scoreboard with a 12-4 major decision over Matthew Swenor at 126 pounds.

The two competitors battled to a 2-2 tie with a Swenor takedown followed by a reversal by Bishop. Later in the match, Bishop scored a headlock takedown, and later got a nearfall. Swenor was able to come back with a takedown early in the third period, but Bishop scored a reversal and a pair of nearfalls to run away with the points advantage.

At 132 pounds, Javon Robbins scored a 12-9 decision win over Joseph Joyal. Robbins held the advantage for much of the match, though Joyal climbed within two points with a takedown a penalty point near the end of the second period.

Robbins pulled away in the third pe-

riod by getting an escape and takedown in the third period. Joyal would later escape, and scored a great takedown at the end of the third, but did not have enough time to complete the comeback.

Troy Carroll came back for Agawam with a decision win. He shut out Tiana Roy 8-0 with three takedowns and a nearfall.

Agawam's Anthony Basile continued his run toward another Western Mass. title by pinning Raymond Heredia during the first period. He control the match with a takedown, but need more than a minute to get the pin.

David Rodriguez won for Agawam 152 pounds with a pinfall, and Giovanni Lazio scored a win in 1:02 at 182 pounds.

Agawam and Chicopee will both have wrestlers competing at Central High School on Saturday morning in the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Championship meet.

COLLEGE NOTES

Monahan named to MASCAC Weekly Honor Roll

WESTFIELD –Three Westfield State track and field athletes earned weekly honors from the MASCAC for their performance recently at the Dartmouth Invitational.

Amongst them was sophomore Ashley Monahan, an Agawam graduate, who runs middle distance events was named to the honor roll.

Monahan came in fourth in the 1,000 meters with a time of 3 minutes, 04.80 seconds at the Dartmouth Invitational.

Ritter helps out Wentworth

BOSTON - Wentworth men's volleyball player and Feeding Hills resident Colin Ritter had a busy week with four matches.

Ritter had 31 assists, six digs and three blocks in a 3-0 win over Lasell. He had 27 assists and three aces in a 3-0 win over New Jersey City, and 38 assists, nine digs and six blocks in a 3-1 win over Vassar. He then finished the week with 43 assists, 11 digs and three blocks in a 3-0 win over Emerson.

Please recycle this newspaper

BLAIS ■ from page 12

notebook.”

Blais says the victory means a lot to him, but he wants a championship.

“One hundred wins is a great accomplishment, but I want to win titles,” said Blais, who is ready for this weekend’s Western Massachusetts Division I Championship meet.

Blais started wrestling in third grade. He said he got involved in the sport because his brother and some of my friends told him that he should join the youth team.

Blais also played football from fourth grade to his senior year this season. But he has been most successful with his wrestling.

“What I like about wrestling is how it can make you push yourself to do unimaginable things,” said Blais. “You have to rely completely on yourself. It’s a sport that allows you to defeat someone with your physical power, technique, and heart.

“Wrestling turns boys into men, it is the survival of the fittest, and it changes your life to where you aren’t afraid to accomplish anything, it gives you determination and persistence that you won’t find in many other people. My 100th win was a match I’ve been working towards my whole high school career.”

Wine, beer tasting to benefit hockey teams

AGAWAM – The Agawam Hockey Booster Club will hold a beer and wine tasting fundraiser Friday, Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person and include a buffet dinner, additional cash bar and a raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Agawam hockey teams.

The event is sponsored by Frigo’s and Towne Liquors. For tickets, call Lea-Ann Rivest at 413-789-1710.

Fishing swap meet set for March 8

AGAWAM - A fishing swap meet will be held at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.

Buy, sell, trade new and used fishing and hunting gear, but no guns allowed.

The event is open to the public.

Polish Club concessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drink.

Free parking. There will be a \$2 donation accepted at the door. Children 12 and under free.

Raffle prizes to be awarded.

Table space and both space available.

Don’t miss your opportunity to make some money selling your used fishing gear!

If you would like to sell your items or boat please contact Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Fashion dandy
 - 4. Cycles per second
 - 7. Strikebreaker
 - 11. Aquatic reptile (informal)
 - 13. Express pleasure
 - 14. Swiss river
 - 15. Contains cerium
 - 17. Ribonucleic acid
 - 18. On top
 - 19. Taxis
 - 21. Banking machine
 - 22. Small salamander
 - 23. Voltage
 - 25. Pointed summit
 - 27. DWTS host
 - 33. In a way, smoked
 - 34. Peat moss source
 - 35. W. African nation Sierra ____
 - 36. Cocoa plum tree
 - 41. Holiday (informal)
 - 44. Venezuelan capital
 - 46. DWTS hostess
 - 48. Hideouts
 - 50. Actress Lupino
- 51. The content of cognition
 - 53. Point one point N of due E
 - 55. Plunder a town
 - 59. No. Albanian dialect
 - 60. No (Scottish)
 - 61. Blatted
 - 64. X2 = a Pacific tourist commune
 - 65. AKA option key
 - 66. Angelina’s spouse
 - 67. “Wedding Crashers” Wilson
 - 68. Grassland, meadow
 - 69. Laughing to self (texting)
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Licenses TV stations
 - 2. Metal-bearing mineral
 - 3. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
 - 4. A bottle with a stopper
 - 5. Short labored breath
 - 6. Hair washing soap
 - 7. Steam bath
 - 8. “R.U.R.” playwright Karel
 - 9. Beside one another in lines
 - 10. Not straight
 - 12. Former OSS
 - 16. Truck driver’s radio
 - 20. Dried-up
 - 24. Million gallons per day (abbr.)
 - 26. Encircle (archaic)
 - 27. ‘__ death do us part
 - 28. A single unit
 - 29. A siemens
 - 30. Prohibition
 - 31. V. William’s clothing line
 - 32. Scotland’s poet’s initials
 - 37. Auto
 - 38. Single spot card in a deck
 - 39. Crow sound
 - 40. Former CIA
 - 42. Factory where arms are made
 - 43. Radioactive unit
 - 44. Scoundrel
 - 45. Freshwater duck genus
 - 47. 9 decades
 - 49. 55120
 - 51. Southeast Nigeria people
 - 52. Arab sailing vessel
 - 54. Hay bundle
 - 56. Blood type
 - 57. Driver compartment
 - 58. “Das Kapital” author Marx
 - 62. Consume food
 - 63. Dental degree

Answers on page 7

POSTSEASON ■ from page 1

points against Minnechaug a few weeks ago.

The Brownies have been getting off to tough starts in several of their games this season, but this time, they were on the giving end of an offensive tear, outscoring Ludlow 27-5.

Off to a good start, the Brownies just kept on scoring while keeping Ludlow down throughout the first half. At halftime, Agawam, had a 46-19 lead, and the game was well in hand.

Agawam did not rest from there, and continued scoring throughout the second. Agawam showed off their entire lineup in the game, as all but one player scored in the game.

The team was led by Joe Moccio, who had 18 points. He made three treys. Alex Sours had a 10-point performance, and Meesha Ohradka had eight points. Cam Cabana also contributed eight points off the bench.

Agawam was excellent from beyond the arc, scoring a total of 11 3-pointers.

Last Thursday night, the Brownies suffered a big setback when they were defeat-

ed 76-65 by Sabis.

The Bulldogs have been a tough team for Agawam to negotiate, but the defeat dropped Agawam to 5-4 in the Suburban League. The Brownies are trailing Comp and South Hadley for second place now by two games. Both teams above them have a 7-3 league record.

Agawam must win the remainder of their regular season schedule or find a way to climb into a second place tie to qualify for the tournament.

Against Sabis, the Brownies had a tough start on offense and fell behind by 14 in the second quarter. They played better late in the game, including a 26-point fourth quarter, but Sabis had too big a lead for Agawam to come all the way back.

The Brownies had four double-digit contributors, with Ohradka leading the team with 16 points. Sean Moore and Moccio each had 12 points, and John Wright had 11 points.

Agawam will play Minnechaug Friday at 7 p.m. They face Longmeadow on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Obituaries & Church News

Marion E. Ekstedt

Marion E. Ekstedt, of Wells, Maine, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015, in Portsmouth, N.H. Marion was born in Boston and adopted in Springfield in 1934. She attended Springfield schools and the University of New Hampshire. She married Bill in 1951 and enjoyed 63 wonderful years together. Bill and Marion moved to Wells, Maine in 2014 after living in Feeding Hills for 57 years. She was a member of Agawam Congregational Church and Wells Congregational Church, where she spent many hours volunteering. She worked at the Country Mouse House in Agawam for more than 20 years. Marion volunteered for 13 years at Noble Hospital in Westfield and served on the Board of Directors for the Agawam Counseling Center. She was an active member of the Pioneer Valley Girl Scouts for many years as chairman and Brownie troop leader. She was fortunate to have done much traveling with her husband to Alaska, Hawaii, Europe, and recently met many family members in Sweden. She treasured her many friends and was well known for her

“famous breads” and the many, many cards and letters she sent. Marion was a devoted mother and wife and cherished the fun at family get-togethers. Marion was predeceased by her daughter, Carin Vella, in July 2013. Marion leaves her husband, William C. Ekstedt and their daughters Cynthia Connelley, Cristin (Michael) Lyon and children Michael, Melinda, William, Erin, Robert, and Madeleine; Carin’s husband Paula Vella and children Emily, Kelsey, and Chris; her son, Karl (Linda) Ekstedt and children Melanie, Jillian, Bob, Jaclyn, Sam, and Brendan. She was also very proud of her two great-grandchildren, Tucker and Trevor. Marion lived a wonderful, full life and always asked that when loved ones remember her, be happy for all the memories. The family will receive guests from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Agawam Funeral Home, 184 Main St., followed by a memorial service at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s choice. Arrangements in Maine are in care of Bibber Memorial Chapel, Wells (www.bibberfuneral.com). Arrangements in Agawam are under the direction of Agawam Funeral Home (413-786-9483).

News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., “a place to call home — a people to call family.” Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with a children’s message, church school fellowship and coffee hour following.

Thursday mornings: 9:30 to 11 a.m., Playgroup. Open to the public. The program follows the Agawam Public School schedule.

Sunday, Feb. 15: 10 a.m., Worship service, Undies Sunday, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Feb. 16: President’s Day. Church office closed. Loaves and Fishes meets at 4 p.m..

Feb. 18: 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday service. Lent begins.

Saturday, Feb. 21: 7:30 a.m., Men’s Ministry meeting at Bobbie J’s.

Sunday, Feb. 22: 10 a.m., Worship service, Undies Sunday and dedication, church school, and coffee hour with “Faithful Friends.”

Wednesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m., Newsletter collation.

Pastor Greg E. Dawson and his wife, Rosemary, are always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 413-786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

Drive-through Ash Wednesday blessings available

The Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills (opposite the playing fields of Agawam High School) is once again offering a drive-through Ash Wednesday blessing for all those who are either too busy or otherwise hesitant to come inside the church. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, which concludes after 40 days with the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Pastor Ken Blanchard will offer ashes for people of any and all Christian denominations on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-5:30 p.m. at the circular driveway in front of the church. In addition to anoint-

ing foreheads with ashes, the blessing will include a brief prayer and benediction.

In addition to making this open to people throughout the community, the drive-through aspect makes it attractive for people with limited mobility or other health issues. People do not have to leave their cars. This is the second time such an approach is being offered by the Agawam United Methodist Church, instead of a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service inside the building.

For more information regarding the church, visit www.agawamworship.org.

Agawam Congregational welcomes new pastor

Members of the Agawam Congregational Church voted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Gregory E. Dawson as their new pastor on Sunday, Jan. 11. Dawson began his ministry at ACC on Feb. 1. He received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Vermont in 1983. He then continued his education at Nazarene Theological Seminary, where he received his master of divinity in 1989, followed by a doctorate of practical ministry in 2000. Dawson is a veteran, having served both in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, enlisted and as an officer. He concluded his military service as an Army Reserve chaplain in 2001. “I see in Pastor Greg, a true, dedicated man of God; someone who will be able to take ACC to ‘the next level’ and bring Christ to those in our community who are unchurched and searching for God,” said Steve Paul, search committee member. “He is the type of pastor who will be able to relate to all members of our congregation, and help us understand how faith can affect our lives.” Dawson currently lives in Torrington, Conn., with his wife Rosemary, an ordained UCC minister specializing in interim ministry. They will be moving to Agawam in the near future. In Connecticut, he served two churches, New Hartford and Seymour.



THE REV. DR. GREGORY E. DAWSON

“The great challenge I see for the church is that we must move into the 21st century,” said the new pastor. “The world around us is changing and the church must discern how God is calling us to minister to this changing world. If we seek to be faithful to Christ’s purpose we can become the church for the next 500 years.”

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Ekstedt, Marion E.

Died Feb. 8, 2015
Funeral services Feb. 21, 2015
Agawam Funeral Home

Fox, Harry C.

Died Feb. 4, 2015
Funeral Feb. 9, 2015
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Labun, Lorraine

Died Feb. 3, 2015
Funeral Feb. 7, 2015
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Marzo, Helen

Died Jan. 31, 2015
Funeral Feb. 7, 2015
Forastiere Smith Funeral Home
East Longmeadow

Mikszewski, Mary C.

Died Jan. 30, 2015
Funeral Feb. 4, 2015
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

O’Connell, Frances P.

Died Feb. 4, 2015
Private Funeral
Agawam Funeral Home

Palazzi, Richard R.

Died Jan. 15, 2015
Funeral Jan. 22, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Lenten lunches to begin Feb. 20

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Lenten lunches at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., will begin Feb. 20 and will be offered on Fridays through March 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu each week will include clam chowder or a different soup, lobster rolls, tuna, and ham or egg salad sandwiches on whole-wheat or white bread, and coffee, tea, soda or bottled water. Pies will be available.

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Sat Feb 14 • 10 am-8 pm
Sun Feb 15 • 10 am-6 pm
Mon Feb 16 • 10 am-4 pm

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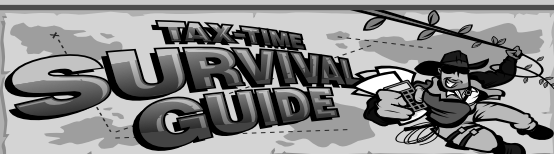
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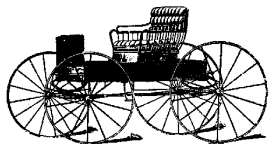


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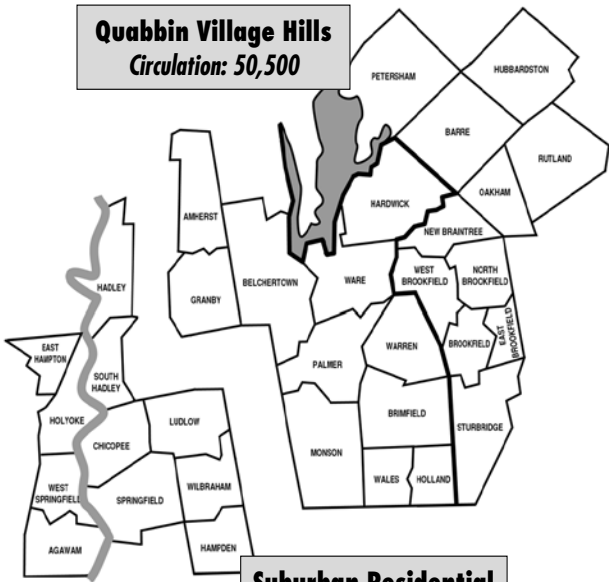
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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Feb. 14

WILD BIRD PROGRAM FOR YOUNG VISITORS at 1:30 p.m. at the Springfield Armory. Wildlife biologist Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility brings a live owl, hawk, golden eagle and a falcon to see up close. Learn which live nearby and about their environment, species, habitat, and conservation efforts.

Sunday, Feb. 15

THE MELHA SHRINERS will host their annual "Chili Cook-Off" from noon to 3 p.m. at the Melha Shrine Center, 133 Longhill St., Springfield. Proceeds from the family-friendly event will benefit the Melha Shrine Center.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A small auction will take place and refreshments will be served. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-569-9871.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY WORKER DOLL MAKING WORKSHOP at 1:30 p.m. Park Ranger Jennifer Zazo-Brown will in-

roduce young visitors to men and women who worked at the armory. They will then craft their very own armory worker doll out of recycled cloth and wire materials.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Nancy Babb on piano, Mark Fraser on cello and mezzo-soprano Eileen Ruby, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766.

Thursday, Feb. 19

MEET THE ROBOTS from 2-4 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. Demonstrations of robots designed and operated by Agawam school students in grades K-12. For ages 5 and older. Stop by the library and meet students from Agawam's Robotics teams and their robots. No registration required.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY WORKER DOLL MAKING WORKSHOP at 1:30 p.m. Park Ranger Jennifer Zazo-Brown will introduce young visitors to men and women who worked at the armory. They will then craft their very own armory worker doll out of recycled cloth and wire materials.

Saturday, Feb. 21

WINTER FUN FESTIVAL from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library for ages 3 and older. The Agawam Library Teen Council offers a fun afternoon of games, crafts, food and face painting. Participants may join the fun anytime between 1-3 p.m.

YOUNG VISITORS ARE INVITED to join Ranger Susan Ashman at 10 a.m. at the Springfield Armory to make a bird feeder using a pinecone, sunflower butter, and birdseed. Learn which kinds of birds live

on the Armory grounds. Participants then bring their feeders home and hang them in the perfect location.

Thursday, Feb. 26

A SENIOR FAIR will be held at Heritage Woods Senior Living in Agawam from 9 a.m. to noon. Free blood pressure, hearing and balance screenings, free chair massage and free food samples from the Ninety Nine Restaurant. For more information, call 413-789-8332 or email Nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "French Art in Springfield, Mass. and Paris" Amy Dane, world traveler and docent, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Friday, March 6

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES continues with a performance of traditional Irish music by "Banish Misfortune," including traditional jigs, waltzes, polkas and more beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

JAY LEVY, SOCIAL WORKER, ADVOCATE AND AUTHOR of "Homeless Narratives & Pretreatment Pathways: From Words to Housing," will be the guest speaker at Springfield Technical Community College at 10:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in Scibelli Hall (Building 2).

Wednesday, March 11

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Friday, March 13

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER hosted by the Agawam Lions Club at Agawam High School from 5-7 p.m. Tickets available at the door, in advance from any Lions Club member, at Southgate Liquors or Bob's Barber Shop on Maple St.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needleworkers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

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